

REMARKS

Objections and Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 36 were objected to because “carbene” was misspelled in claim 1 as “carbine.” The error has been corrected.

Claims 5 and 30-32 were rejected under Section 112 for incorrect dependencies. Claim 5 has been amended to depend on claim 4, and claim 30 has been amended to depend on claim 25. Applicant believes that claims 5 and 30-32 are no longer indefinite in view of these corrections.

Section 102 and Section 103 Rejections

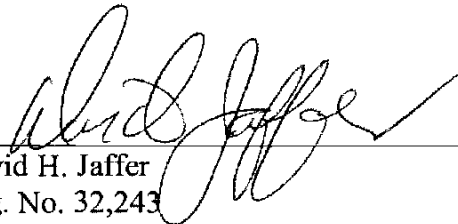
Claims 18, 20, and 40 were rejected under Sections 102 and 103 in view of JP 02-289947. Applicant has amended these claims to include the limitation that the composition include a hardness modulator comprising a silicone. Applicant believes these claims now distinguish over the cited art and are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the objections, Section 112 rejections, and Sections 102 and 103 rejections, and believes all remaining claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If any further questions should arise prior to a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney at the number set forth below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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